

Davis (IL) Kirk
 Davis (KY) Klein (FL)
 Davis, Lincoln Kline (MN)
 Davis, Tom Kuhl (NY)
 DeGette LaHood
 Delahunt Lampson
 DeLauro Langevin
 Dent Larson (CT)
 Diaz-Balart, L. Latham
 Diaz-Balart, M. LaTourette
 Dingell Lee
 Doggett Levin
 Donnelly Lewis (CA)
 Doyle Lewis (GA)
 Drake Lewis (KY)
 Dreier Linder
 Edwards Lipinski
 Ellison LoBiondo
 Ellsworth Loebsack
 Emanuel Lofgren, Zoe
 Emerson Lowey
 English (PA) Lucas
 Eshoo Lungren, Daniel
 Etheridge E.
 Everett Mack
 Fallon Mahoney (FL)
 Farr Maloney (NY)
 Fattah Manzullo
 Feeney Markey
 Ferguson Marshall
 Filner Matheson
 Forbes Matsui
 Fortenberry McCarthy (CA)
 Fossella McCarthy (NY)
 Frank (MA) McCaul (TX)
 Frelinghuysen McCollum (MN)
 Gallegly McCotter
 Garrett (NJ) McCrery
 Giffords McDermott
 Gilchrest McGovern
 Gillibrand McHugh
 Gonzalez McIntyre
 Goodlatte McMorris
 Gordon Rodgers
 Granger McNerney
 Graves McNulty
 Green, Al Meek (FL)
 Green, Gene Meeks (NY)
 Grijalva Melancon
 Hall (NY) Mica
 Hall (TX) Michaud
 Hare Miller (FL)
 Harman Miller (MI)
 Hastert Miller (NC)
 Hastings (FL) Miller, Gary
 Hastings (WA) Mitchell
 Hayes Mollohan
 Heller Moore (KS)
 Herger Moore (WI)
 Herseeth Sandlin Moran (KS)
 Higgins Murphy (CT)
 Hill Murphy, Patrick
 Hinchey Murphy, Tim
 Hinojosa Murtha
 Hirano Musgrave
 Hobson Myrick
 Hodes Nadler
 Holden Napolitano
 Holt Neugebauer
 Honda
 Hoyer
 Hulshof
 Inglis (SC) Ortiz
 Inslee Pallone
 Israel Pascarell
 Issa Pastor
 Jackson (IL) Payne
 Jackson-Lee Pearce
 (TX) Pence
 Johnson (GA) Perlmutter
 Johnson, E. B. Peterson (MN)
 Jones (OH) Petri
 Kagen Pitts
 Kanjorski Platts
 Kaptur Pomeroy
 Keller Porter
 Kennedy Price (GA)
 Kildee Price (NC)
 Kilpatrick Putnam
 Kind Radanovich
 King (IA) Rahall
 King (NY) Rangel

NAYS—30

Akin Davis, David
 Barrett (SC) Deal (GA)
 Broun (GA) DeFazio
 Chabot Doolittle
 Conaway Duncan
 Flake
 Foxx
 Gingrey
 Gohmert
 Goode

Hoekstra
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones (NC)
 Jordan
 Kingston
 Lamborn
 McHenry
 Royce
 Sali
 Sensenbrenner
 Shadegg
 Sullivan
 Walberg
 Wamp
 Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—55

Allen Hensarling
 Bachus Hooley
 Bishop (GA) Hunter
 Boswell Jefferson
 Brown, Corrine Jindal
 Buyer Johnson (IL)
 Cannon Knollenberg
 Carney Kucinich
 Carson Lantos
 Conyers Larsen (WA)
 Costello Lynch
 Cubin Marchant
 Davis, Jo Ann McKeon
 Dicks Miller, George
 Ehlers Moran (VA)
 Engel Neal (MA)
 Franks (AZ) Oberstar
 Gerlach Paul
 Gutierrez Peterson (PA)

□ 1916

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.” So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I took a leave of absence on September 17, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

“Yea”—H.R. 3246—Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 (Rep. OBERSTAR, JAMES L.)

“Yea”—H.R. 1657—To establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs. (Rep. ROHRBACHER, DANA)

“Yea”—H.R. 3257—To extend for two months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. (Rep. SHERMAN, BRAD)

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, due to personal business in Iowa, I was unable to return to Washington for votes on Monday, September 17, 2007. If I had been here, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 3246, H.R. 1657 and H.R. 3527.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1852, EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

Ms. MATSUI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-330) on the resolution (H. Res. 650) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes,

which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2881, FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee is expected to meet Wednesday, September 19, to grant a rule which may structure the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Members who wish to offer an amendment to this bill should submit 30 copies of the amendment and a brief description of the amendment to the Rules Committee in H-312 in the Capitol no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19. Members are strongly advised to adhere to the amendment deadline to ensure the amendments receive consideration.

Amendments should be drafted to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2881. The amendment reflects an agreement between the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Science and Technology Committee. A copy of the text is posted on the Web site of the Rules Committee.

Amendments should be drafted by legislative counsel and also should be reviewed by the Office of the Parliamentarian to be sure that the amendments comply with the rules of the House. Members are also strongly encouraged to submit their amendments to the Congressional Budget Office for analysis regarding possible PAYGO violations.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague, Congressman AL GREEN, in congratulating Dr. Michael E. DeBakey for having the Congressional Gold Medal that was passed today in the House acknowledge his outstanding leadership.

Dr. DeBakey is not only a great American, a great Texan, and a great Houstonian, but he is a great lover of freedom and peace. He does so by evidencing it through his wonderful hands of surgery.

Dr. DeBakey was in World War II. He established the MASH unit that is now saving lives of our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. His wisdom has been sought by virtually every U.S. President since Harry S. Truman. He served on Presidential commissions during both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and thus provided essential support in the passage of the landmark 1965 Medicare legislation.

Dr. DeBakey was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction in 1969 and the National Medal of Science from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. I want to thank Dr. DeBakey and my former colleague, Chris Bell, for initiating the legislation that will allow us to award him the Congressional Gold Medal. He is deserving on his birthday of September 7 when he reached almost 100 years old. He is deserving of this great honor. We in Houston love him and admire him. We thank him for the service he has given and all of the lives that he has served. This is a great day when we have passed legislation to honor Dr. Michael E. DeBakey of Houston Texas, the Texas Medical Center, with a Congressional Gold Medal.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARDOZA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FREQUENCY OF WITNESS INTIMIDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I will continue my discussion on a growing and often deadly plague on our society, witness intimidation.

Each day, there is a story reported about civic-minded citizens being threatened with violence or becoming victims of fire bombings or shootings, all of which are designed to prevent them from testifying to crimes that they have witnessed.

Unfortunately, these tactics are working to form what has become commonly known as a "conspiracy of silence." Witnesses are literally afraid for their lives. If you do not believe me, listen to these recent reports: in Newark, New Jersey, for 2 years Reginald Roe was the star and sole witness that prosecutors were relying on in a case involving an ambush gang killing in a parking lot there. Having picked two men's pictures out of a photo array and sworn before a grand jury, he said: "I saw everything, I was there."

But when the case came to trial, with a group of gang members glaring at him in open court, Roe changed his story, testifying that he had heard the shots, but never saw who fired them. The two suspects were acquitted.

In Philadelphia, as the culture of fear continues to deter witnesses from coming forward, a Federal grand jury accused a drug dealer and his girlfriend of conspiring to intimidate a government witness by having the witness's neighborhood plastered with flyers labeling him "a rat and a snitch."

In Parachute, Colorado, Garfield County deputies arrested five teenagers

they believed threatened to beat someone with a baseball bat who planned to testify against them.

In my hometown of Baltimore, a 16-year-old witness in the case of the murder of 15-year-old Christine Richardson was moved from the city by relatives due to mounting threats. Indeed, the teenager was beaten the day after the murder occurred and was threatened by three girls, one of whom brandished a gun.

Mr. Speaker, the current situation is simply unacceptable. We should be making it easier for witnesses of crime to come forward. It should be the norm, rather than an odd occurrence, for criminals to be prosecuted. This issue must be addressed because without witnesses, there can be no justice in America.

Some success stories do exist. On August 31, Baltimore City State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy was able to get a witness to testify, which helped secure the conviction of 39-year-old Joseph Brinkley on two counts of attempted first-degree murder and handgun charges. In November of 2005, Brinkley approached two men as they hailed a cab and shot them in the back multiple times with a 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun. The victim originally told detectives that he did not see the shooter, but recanted his statement after Brinkley approach him and his 9-year-old son.

Unfortunately, such bravery is rare. Our constituents must know that taking an interest in their community and reporting crime is the right thing to do and that the government will do everything possible to ensure their safety.

This is why I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor of H.R. 933, the Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007, and to support its passage when it comes to the House floor. Upon enactment, this legislation authorizes \$90 million a year over the next 3 years to assist State and local law enforcement for witness protection while fostering Federal, State, and local partnerships. Priority will be given to prosecuting offices in States with an average of at least 100 murders during the immediate past 5 years; however, smaller entities also have a chance to receive funding.

State and local prosecutors will also be able to use these funds to provide witness protection on their own or to pay the cost of enrolling their witnesses in the short-term State witness protection program to be created within the U.S. Marshal Service.

Mr. Speaker, finally, improving protection for State and local witnesses will move us one step closer toward alleviating the fears of and threats to prospective witnesses and help to safeguard our communities from violence.

CONSTITUTION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, the Preamble of the Constitution reads: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

On this day, 220 years ago, the 55 delegates to the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to hold their final meeting and sign a document that would change the course of history. Our Founding Fathers created a monumental plan to govern a sprawling young country dedicated to the idea that citizens were sovereign and should be as free from the tyranny of unchecked authority.

Constitution Day presents us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on what a magnificent job these 55 individuals did in crafting a compromise which has provided us with a unified and stable Nation. In their wisdom, they sought to protect the rights and liberties of individuals by dividing power and authority between States and the national government. The result is a system of shared roles designed to prevent any one element from gaining too much power.

Members of Congress have taken an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution and with that responsibility in mind it is vital for us to fully understand this sacred document. That is why today on the 220th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution I am introducing the AMERICA Act: A Modest Effort to Read and Instill the Constitution Again.

The AMERICA Act simply states that Members of Congress, Senators, and their respective staff read the Constitution annually.

Mr. Speaker, we Members of Congress are pledged to uphold this Constitution, to defend this Constitution, write the laws that implement this Constitution and from time to time propose constitutional amendments to change this Constitution. It is my hope that this modest yearly effort will renew and deepen our appreciation for the brilliance of the Constitution and the division and constraints on power contained within it.

The AMERICA Act is meant to be a reminder to lawmakers to stay within our country's founding framework as we conduct our legislative business. To our detriment, we often take the path of political expedience and ignore the limits so clearly written into the Constitution.

Today, I call on all Members of Congress to join me and rededicate ourselves to our founding principles of limited, constrained governance as enshrined in our Constitution. By studying our founding document, we will continue the legacy of these great men and their groundbreaking ideas, as well as develop the habits of citizenship